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Soccer stars
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Amazing Grace
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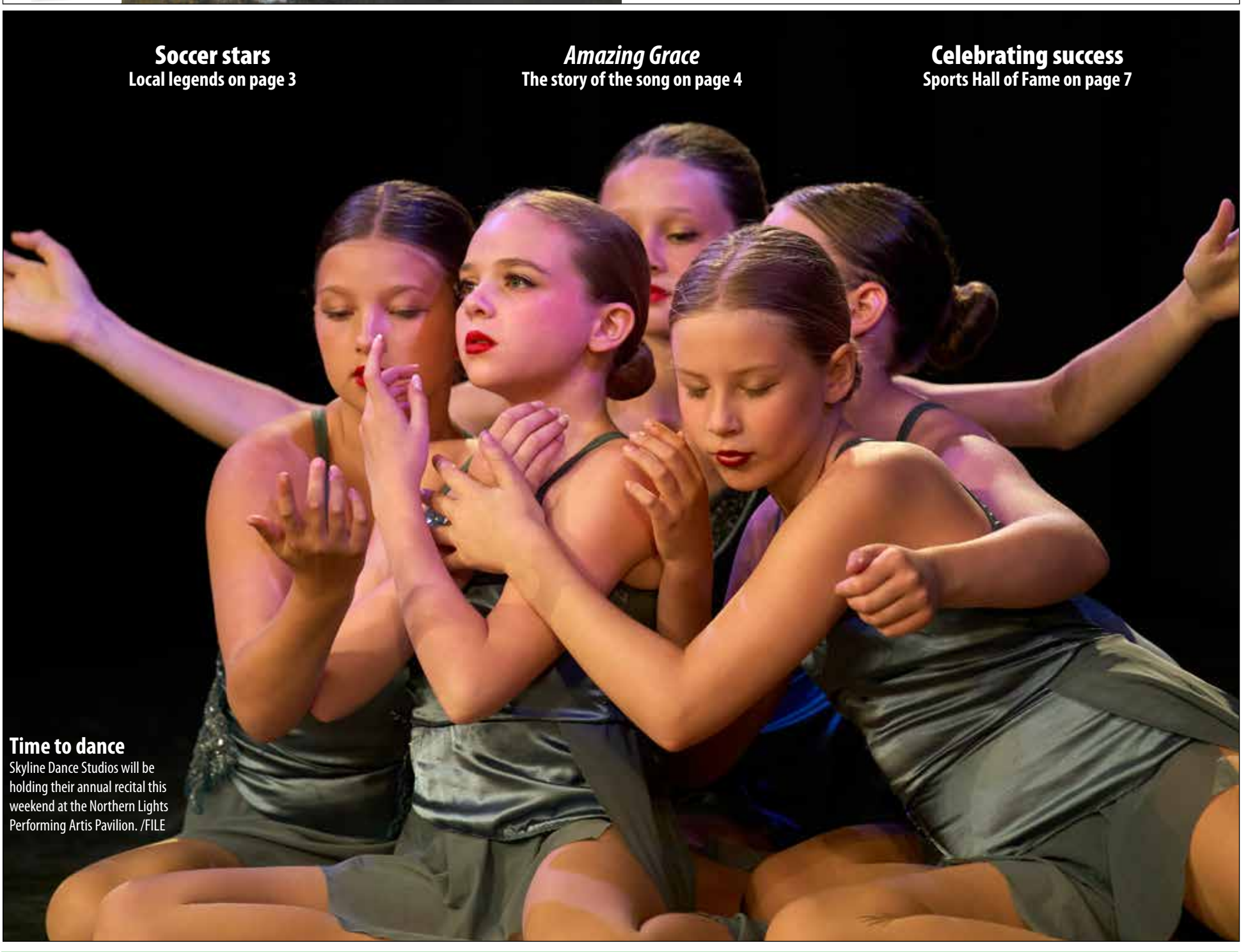
Celebrating success
Sports Hall of Fame on page 7



Time to dance
Skyline Dance Studios will be holding their annual recital this weekend at the Northern Lights Performing Artis Pavilion. /FILE

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WALDEN: *Nice*

I'M IN Grade 5. My name's Walden. I live with my mom and take the school bus every day. I'm in a split grade with a new teacher called Miss T. Fields. I'm not sure what *T* stands for, but some of us wonder. She's different, and her rules are fairer than Grade 4. I think her first name's *Theresa*, but somebody says it's *Misty*. We're also trying to figure out where she's from. She lived in Toronto for a while before moving up here. She talks about *The Danforth*, a long avenue that runs along Lake Ontario from Scarborough into the city. My Nana's from Scarborough.

I love that huge lake with actual ships on it. I pretend it's the Atlantic Ocean. Dad and I would walk the beaches. He'd moved in with Nana, and was learning to fix cars. Since she doesn't drive, she'd been taking a bus up and down to pick me up at Mom's. A few years ago, that bus route suddenly stopped. When Dad rebuilt an old pickup, he and Nana started coming north to see me. But then he moved to Moncton. So I call them instead. I'm hoping to have my own cellphone when I'm 12. Nana said she'll look into it. Thank goodness for phones so we can all find each other. I also get to spend two summer weeks with her down in Scarborough.

My best friend is my yellow mutt Saffron. I adopted him as a stray, and nobody knew where he came from. He showed up in town one morning, and the lady who rescued him told me he'd probably been left behind by random cottagers. When nobody claimed him after his picture went everywhere, I asked to keep him. He wasn't much older than a puppy, and we were buddies the second we met. Talk about fairy tales. Such a perfect dog is almost too good to be true.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

I told Miss Fields about Saffron. She listens and asks questions. She reminds me of Nana. Nana doesn't have a faraway accent, though, but she talks to me in the same smiley way. That makes me want to say more, so I do. Both my grandmother and teacher seem to really like me. They have nice voices. I like nice voices.

My other best friend up here is Sophia. She's super interesting, and lives a busy life. I sometimes rode with her family when they drove up and down to Toronto in a single day. With Dad now in Moncton, I don't take monthly trips to the city. But I still hang with Sophia at recess and lunch. We also make weekend play dates when she's free so we can toss toys with Saffron in the park. Sophia's fun and easy-going. She's like a sister, except she doesn't tease or spy. That's what our classmate Kate does. If you're lucky enough to have a sister, you really shouldn't hurt her.

Says me, anyway.

Author's note: Here's the latest in our alphabeti-cal series, Dickens-style, introducing a fictional Central Ontario classroom which recognizes student individuality, diversity, similarity, and wide-open growing on the verge of their futures. It's also our effort to help celebrate devoted teachers everywhere. We invite all ages, but especially kids, to enjoy reading these chapters out loud. ROOM 10 will soon be available in picture book format. A similar series will follow this one. Stay tuned!

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Foodland

Home Hardware *

Minden Valumart *

Rexall *

Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *

Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

A little wriggle room

WHEN I was a kid, collecting earth worms was the most exciting part of any fishing trip – unless, of course, your parents gave you permission to go spear fishing for great white sharks.

I was not so lucky. So, worms were it.

Collecting worms allowed a kid to stay up past their bedtime, use dad's flashlight, and stalk across a wet lawn in bare feet until they saw a worm they could pounce on, and then wrestle with. It was a dream job.

There was nothing like the moment when, after a prolonged tug of war, the kid would hold up the wriggling worm and parade it around the lawn like it was the Stanley Cup.

I can still remember my dad putting those worms in the bait bucket and saying, "You make me so happy." Which would have been great, had he not been talking to the worms.

No matter. Collecting worms was what boys of my era lived for.

The goal, for most of us, was to drop out of grade school to become a worm wrangler. That was my dream too, but I had to cast it aside after my dad told me that to make it in that business, I would have to maintain a D-plus average.

I won't get into how that turned out, but well, here I am.

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

These days catching worms is a lost art. Now, most people go to the bait shop and buy them, neatly packaged, by the dozen, in a Styrofoam container. Then, they store them between trips, in the back of the fridge where spouses always assume the container is leftover take-out food.

When we were kids, the only place to store worms was in the front pocket of your jeans. That way, on laundry day, mom alerted dad when we caught more. Sadly, those who buy their worms will never know the joy that comes with outsmarting one. Unlike me. I have tangled with hundreds of worms and outsmarted one.

It has been a while but here is all you need to know. When battling a worm, the main thing to remember is to get a good grip on the worm in question and refrain from pulling it, while it is pulling back to get into its hole. Otherwise, you'll strain your back.

Holding a worm steady while it is pulling causes the worm to wear itself out. More importantly, it gives the worm a chance to think about how horrible living a life in fear of robins actually is. This is why most of them give up willingly.

Here's one more thing to consider. As much as you'd like to, no good has ever come from bragging about your worm collecting skills.

The last thing anyone wants to hear is a person saying "You wouldn't believe how many worms I have."

Trust me. I once said that to my doctor and the examination quickly took a turn for the worse.

That notwithstanding, I often wonder what life would have been like had I taken a different career path and spent my working years as a highly respected worm harvesting professional. I think it would have been satisfying to know that I was making so many anglers happy.

It was practically a family tradition. My dad collected worms, and so did his dad, and his dad before him. I guess you could say, it was in my jeans.

Soccer stars

The Senior and Junior Girls soccer team travelled to Norwood District High School for Kawartha Championships on Tuesday May 19. It was a hot and humid day of soccer. The Junior Girls team played Campbellford beating them 2-0 for their first win of the season and to be the Kawartha Single A champions. The Senior Team beat Kenner 6-0 in the Semi final game. For the finals, the Senior team came back from a deficit to beat Norwood 3-2 to win the Kawartha Championship. /submitted

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
2nd Sunday of the month. Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting.7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices.
Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club
room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

How sweet the sound

GREG J. ROE
Music Notes

For many, the song *Amazing Grace* will be instantly recognizable and the melody will likely come immediately to mind. How the song came to be is an intriguing story.

The song was born out of resurrection and redemption, one of the most recognizable in the English speaking world beloved by many. The word ' grace' has a very specific connotation in Christianity and in Buddhism, where there is no specific deity, it means universal compassion, boundless loving- kindness and the inherent state of enlightenment present in all beings. Other belief systems would no doubt have their own take on the word.

The redemption part of the song is the fact that the lyrics were written by John Newton and first published in 1779. Newton had gone to sea at the age of 11 and developed a reputation as the most profane sailor that the most seasoned captains had ever seen. A true "wretch." He became a slave trader and for many years plied that trade with great success. The story of his redemption goes as follows. His ship, The Greyhound, was caught in a terrible storm and it was believed that all would be lost. Newton called out to God for mercy and the ship was saved. Surely a sign!

While his conversion wasn't immediate, he did eventually leave the sea, gave up the slave trade and devoted his life to rectifying the wrongs he had done. He became a clergyman and an active and respected community member. Written as a hymn, *Amazing Grace* was first used as part of a sermon given on New Year's Day, 1773. At the time, hymns were written as lyrics only and could be set to various tunes.

Amazing Grace would have been sung to many tunes over the years, but the one that we are familiar with today is generally connected to a song called *New Britain*. There is also a story that the melody was actually an old slave song, sung while working. If so, one can see the irony. Apparently, as well, the song can be played using only the black keys of a piano! Some consider this very symbolic, a subliminal message perhaps.

Over the centuries, the song has become ubiquitous. There is definitely something other worldly about both the lyrics and the music. During the 1960s the song became very popular and was often used at civil rights marches and has a strong connection to the movement. It has been recorded by many and varied artists from Elvis to Skeeter Davis to The Lemonheads. Judy Collins took her version of it to number 15 in the Billboard Hot 100. It is estimated that the song is performed more than 10 million times annually around the world. American journalist Bill Moyers produced a superb documentary on the song in 1990. It is well worth watching.

Did I mention the Haliburton connection? Well, in another twist of irony (or redemption), John Newton became good friends with a British parliamentarian and together they led the campaign to abolish slavery that culminated in the Slave Trade Act of 1807. The name of that friend was William Wilberforce. Amazing!

Glimpses of the past

RUSS WUNKER
Glimpses of the Past

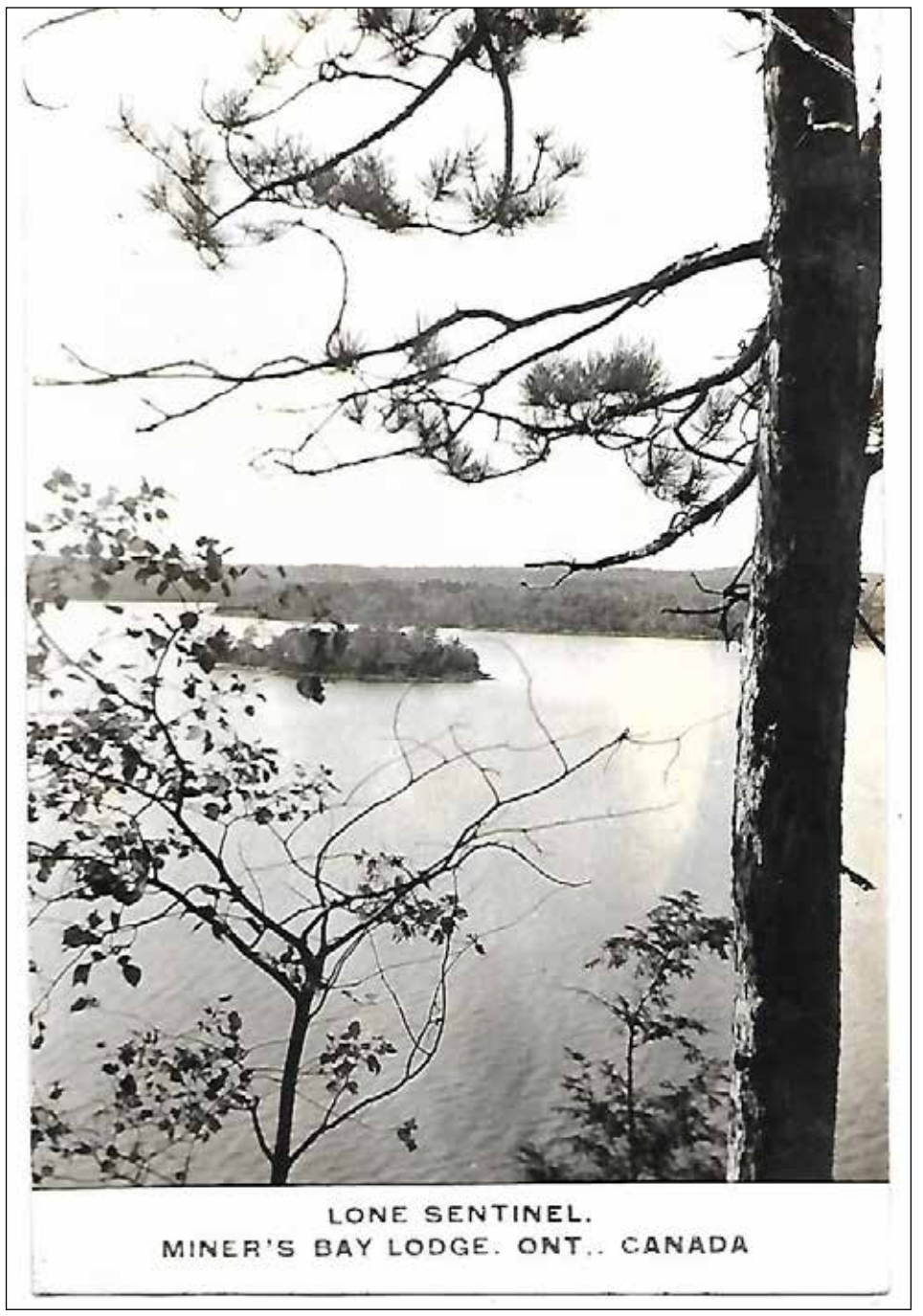
Lone Sentinel

This real photo post card is unique in several respects. Very few post cards have a vertical lay out, but for this view, it is both appropriate and stunning.

What appears to be a "Scotch Pine" dominates the view from the top of Long Island, looking west, across Gull Lake. In the middle of the scene is Victoria Island, as yet undeveloped. Behind it the opening to Deep Bay is evident.

The more common views looking across the lake from Long Island have a vantage point further to the south, and usually depict what was locally known as Huckleberry Island. Most maps show that island as "St. Helena."

This post card was produced for Miners Bay Lodge in the 1940s and was utilized for well over a decade. This particular specimen was mailed from Toronto in 1951. The correspondent had just left Gull Lake. One of her party is reported as having "a wonderful tan, and we all hated leaving".



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Writing on the Senior Side

Too many notes

GAIL STELTER
County Life Contributor

I was about 12 years old at the time. I was sitting in the back seat with several of my cousins. We were leaving Toronto behind and heading to Marmora. One of my cousins said something about the city that I have never forgotten. Asked about her visit to Toronto, she said that there were too many lights. I was a Toronto kid, and it had never occurred to me that there were too many lights. Later, during another visit to Marmora, I was trying to go to sleep, which was always difficult for me, and I was upset. There were too many crickets outside my window. Toronto had just as many lights as necessary, and the area outside my window had just as many crickets as necessary.

'Too many notes, dear Mozart, too many notes' is what Emperor Joseph II supposedly said after the first performance of the Entführung aus dem Serail in Vienna›s old Burgtheater. Mozart›s reply was: 'Just as many as necessary, Your Majesty.'

Poor Emperor Joseph. It was just as ridiculous then as it is now to suggest that anyone would make such a comment about Mozart's genius.

Last Saturday, we were driving to downtown Toronto to see Heidi, our granddaughter's dance performance at the Young People's Theatre. Rainy would be an understatement of the driving conditions. Torrential winds and pouring rain, and, as usual, as we entered the GTA, one of us said, "too many notes". We laugh. Unlike Emperor Joseph, we know the city is just as wonderful as it was when it was our childhood and teen playground and our home. It is still our home, from the Maple Leafs and the Blue Jays, to the Royal Alex Theatre, the ROM, the waterfront, beautiful old tree-lined streets, and so much more. Toronto is still our city.

"Too many notes" has become our reaction to driving downtown. The city is probably twice the size it was when we went to Yorkville to be pretend hippies, took the ferry to Centre Island and worked at the Ex and went to the nightly teen dances. The Terrace on Mutual Street is gone, and it would be nice to see it again, but it will always be our beginning. I think back to hot summer days at Sunnyside Pool, teaching myself to dive and all the belly flops that came first. I loved all the places my dad took me on our Saturday mornings after we dropped Mom off at Simpson's. We collected chestnuts at Queen's Park to shine and to play conkers, went to the St. Lawrence Market and the ROM. I spent three summers as a playground leader for the City of Toronto, wearing ugly gold culottes and a tucked-in white blouse that seldom stayed tucked. I played with all the wonderful children at the playground at Fern Ave Public School in Roncesvales, and in "Little Italy" at Earlscourt Park. I learned to drive on busy streets, the Gardiner Expressway and the newly opened Hwy 427. I will never forget having the adventure of stalling our gear shift car on a hill on Dufferin Street. So unnerving that I decided to wait for our new car, an automatic Javelin, and got my license the year I went to Lakeshore Teachers' College.

Toronto will always be my city, and we stop and remember that there are just as many cars as necessary in the 2026 version of our city. So, we laugh and make our way through the myriads of drivers, the pouring rain and the slow looking around drive on Front Street to find a place to park. Today's city is best served by public transit, walkers, bike riders and Uber drivers. If I lived downtown, I would use Uber every time. I would never drive in the city, but Peter is always ready and willing and driving never bothers him. I am the worrier, and while I don't want to miss the dance performance, I can't even imagine how uptight I would be if I were the driver.

It is still raining as we find a parking spot right in front of The Corner Place Restaurant, where we are meeting our daughter and our grandson for dinner. Heidi is already at the theatre getting ready for the performance. Peter's not sure about the parking spot as he doesn't want to get towed, but there isn't a no-parking sign at that spot, so it might be okay. After dinner, he will drive us the four-minute walk to the theatre. I tell him I'm good for the walk, but my Air Cast, my breathing and the rain make him insist. He drops us off at the theatre and finds a "proper" legal parking spot." It's all good. Our granddaughter is going to perform hip hop, and her performance is scheduled just before the intermission. We have great seats on the side balcony, and as she finishes her dance, she looks up at us and smiles, a joyful, sweet, beautiful smile. It has been a long drive and a worrisome one for me, and that smile makes it all worthwhile. We leave at intermission and head out into the rain for the long but not-so-busy drive back to Haliburton. We like to sleep in our beds. For more than half the drive, the wind and pouring rain are back, adding stress to my exhaustion, and as we pull into our driveway, I am having one of those "every bone in my body hurts" moments. Glad to be home and straight to bed.

We will do it all again on June 3 to see Heidi act in a theatre performance at the old University of Toronto Theatre, driving downtown again and hopefully without the wind and rain. Living on the senior side means grabbing the moments, even if it takes a couple of days to recover. Oh, yes, as we enter the GTA, one of us will say, "too many notes". Sometimes we think we want everything to be as it was when we were young, but that is unrealistic, and we know there are just as many notes as necessary. That's the secret: whatever life presents you on the senior side, be mindful of Mozart and know that there are just as many notes as necessary.

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Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Body

I LOOK in a mirror, and a body looks back.

My body, I remind myself. A body that has survived every cough and cold. Sleepless nights and early mornings. A body that has built and birthed a life, grazed and grown with each new year,

In the summer, we see more of bodies. That's the nature and freedom of where we live. Cut-off shorts and bikini lines. Heat and humidity causing us to roll up our sleeves, warm rays and summer winds begging for a lick of skin.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

But I look in a mirror, and a body looks back.

The beauty industry is a multi-billion dollar corporation which is entirely dependent on how much we feed it. According to a CBC article, Canadians spent almost $9 billion U.S. on cosmetics in 2024, contributing to the global cosmetics industry's roughly $650 billion in revenue. Social media is one of the worst culprits for fast tracking societal expectations; targeted ads and nudges lurking in every shadow, waiting at every click.

Forever telling us that we need more, more, more.

Creams that erase lines, oils that tighten edges. A new outfit, a new bag, a new perfume.

That will make it alright. A temporary boost of dopamine to tie the ends together.

Women in particular are often told that we are too much, not enough, too thin, not thin enough, too loud, not loud enough, too smart, not smart enough, too old, not old enough.

And I'm not out here to tell you I have a solution to how this all pans out. I myself am a victim of this industry, forever falling into the traps of believing I need more. That I am not enough.

I look in a mirror, and a body looks back.

But just this morning, as I picked apart the bits and pieces of my body that I didn't like, I came to a realization: I am getting older (thankfully), and so is my body (thankfully).

And the bits and pieces that are picked and pulled are not because I am aging, but rather, because I have more years of being weighed down by the expectations of society.

Women can only take being told that they are not enough and too much for so long. Eventually, the words start to sizzle onto your skin, their vile undertones weaving the tales you tell yourself.

I watch as the next generation grows beside me. We aim to protect them, to support them, but our own demons that curl in the shadows of our insecurity threaten to leap up, even while taming them to sit still. Please, sit still.

We must be mindful of these words. The ones hurled and thrown at our faces, our arms, our legs, our bodies. Their mud sticking and caking to our thoughts; nearly impossible to pick off with our fingernails.

This time of year, when we see more of bodies, we need to honour the shell that carries us. A body that has survived every cough and cold. Sleepless nights and early mornings. A body that has built and birthed a life, grazed and grown with each new year,

We can't have the next generation carrying our demons. The ones who tell us we don't deserve joy, don't deserve food, don't deserve peace, don't deserve space. All because a multi-billion dollar industry that is entirely dependent on our insecurities, fuels those shadows.

So I look in a mirror, and a body looks back.

And isn't that wonderful.

Top 10 black fly remedies

BLACK FLY season is upon us. With that comes the black fly dances and the increased need for blood transfusion. Even so, most people are not fans of these little black demons. With that in mind, here are the top 10 remedies.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Hermetically sealed crypt.
2. Remain completely submerged.
3. Low-powered electric lawn chair.
4. Stand in the middle of a sweaty crowd.
5. Beg people to constantly slap you.
6. Move to Antarctica.
7. Hire a posse of dragonflies.
8. Flypaper suit.
9. Foil them by letting mosquitoes drain your blood first.
10. Threaten them with a portable blow dryer and mean it.

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Ledges

Speck of soil cradling a seed, in the crevice of a rock,
dropped by a bird that flaps its wings over a cliff billions of years old,
or maybe the branch of a fir or pine tree dropped the seed onto the ledge of a rock below it,
a seedling sprouting from a crack in the rock, nourished by sunlight and Rain, my eyes gawking up at the vertical forest
that grows on the ledges of rocks, Wind rippling through the green fur of pines, their roots intertwined with the rocks,
marveling at how many trees can spring from this barren terrain, cracks and fissures splitting their stone skin,
deeper than my eyes can see, standing down here on the ground, tiny as the speck of soil that feeds the seed,
my eyes roaming along the cliff of rocks, pausing at the edges of ledges where saplings and pines stretch towards Sky,
barely enough room for them to grow, but they do, on the narrowest of ledges, hovering high above the ground,
my eyes gaping in wonder at the vertical forest, ledge upon ledge of pines and firs,
the wings of hawks grazing their treetops, as they fly higher and higher towards the top of the cliff,
where they glide across the smooth blueness of Sky, the same Sky that sheltered this cliff of rocks billions of years ago,
long before trees sprung from the darkness buried in the cracks and crevices of rocks,
a single seed landing in a speck of soil, fed by droplets of Rain, or torrents that poured down from Sky,
lashing the ledges of rocks, when the tops of hills were islands, floating in a flooded world,
before valleys and land emerged, the ground on which I stand, once submerged,
how ancient the place from which we spring, bringing chaos and clutter into the world, while the pines and firs,
up there on their narrow ledges, just grow, their roots embedded in the rocks, that remain solid and silent and still,
while billions of us scurry through a flurry of noise and worries every day, when once there was only Wind,
blowing through vast and empty spaces, its Breath splintering the silence of an endless Night, before Day birthed light,
my eyes scouring Sky for the hawks that flew past the ledges of rocks, where firs and pines spend their lives,
teetering on the edge without ever toppling over, this vertical forest that began with a single seed
planting itself in a crumb of soil, my eyes spotting the hawks, circling the cliff of rocks,
soaring higher and higher as I watch their flight, the tips of their wings brushing Sky,
ancient as the dawn of light.

Sylvie Kalenda

/photos submitted by Tim Tofflemire

Local athletes honoured through Sports Hall of Fame

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Gathering together for the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame induction on May 23, proved two things: We are a community of doers and dreams, and you never know someone's full story.

On the rainy Saturday, the A.J. LaRue was completely packed. Individuals of all ages and backgrounds came out to celebrate the accomplishments of a number of dedicated athletes from over the years. "All of these individuals have made the highlands a better place through their commitment, hard work, and perseverance," said Roger Trull, the chair of the organization. "The Hall of Fame induction ceremony is our opportunity to thank them and congratulate them on their many accomplishments.

Over the course of the event, five athletes, four builders, and three teams were acknowledged. In addition, there were two recipients for the Outstanding Achievement Award, along with two Rising Stars, celebrated for their dedication to the world of sport.

The Rising Star award was created to recognize young Haliburton County athletes between the ages of 14 and 19. It was developed in 2024, and seeks to identify individuals who are outstanding in their sporting accomplishments.

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame came together seven years ago under the leadership of Scotty LaRue, and a group of volunteers who joined forces to create the not-for-profit. The initiative operates under the umbrella of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

Currently, the plaques and displays from the Hall of Fame reside in both the Haliburton Arena and the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden.

At this past Saturday's event, multiple teams were recognized, and through them, hundreds were in attendance. Each inductee received a short video clip, outlining their commitments and contributions to the world of sport in the Haliburton Highlands. Many teams wore their jackets from the olden days, making the energy reminiscent of a family reunion.

Trull thanked the management committee, the selection committee, and the number of community partners, including the Haliburton County Development Corporation, the Municipality of Dysart et al, and the Township of Minden Hills. He also recognized support from Curry Motors and Minden Subaru. "To get something started, moving forward, you have to have believers," said Trull.

The following were inducted into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame this past Saturday:

Athletes

Jonathan Bishop
Wendy Bolt (Gough)
Julia Fedeski
Paul Madden
Chris Petrow

Builders

Bob and Noreen Bishop
Helen Burk
Neil (Beagle) Burk
Jane Symons

Teams

HHSS Football Teams (1978 and 1979)
Minden Rockcliffe Hustlers (1980-1988)

Outstanding Achievement

Lake Boshkung Skiers (1962-1969)
Haliburton County Ladies Softball League (1967-1989)

Rising Stars

Austin Boylan
Addyson Parish

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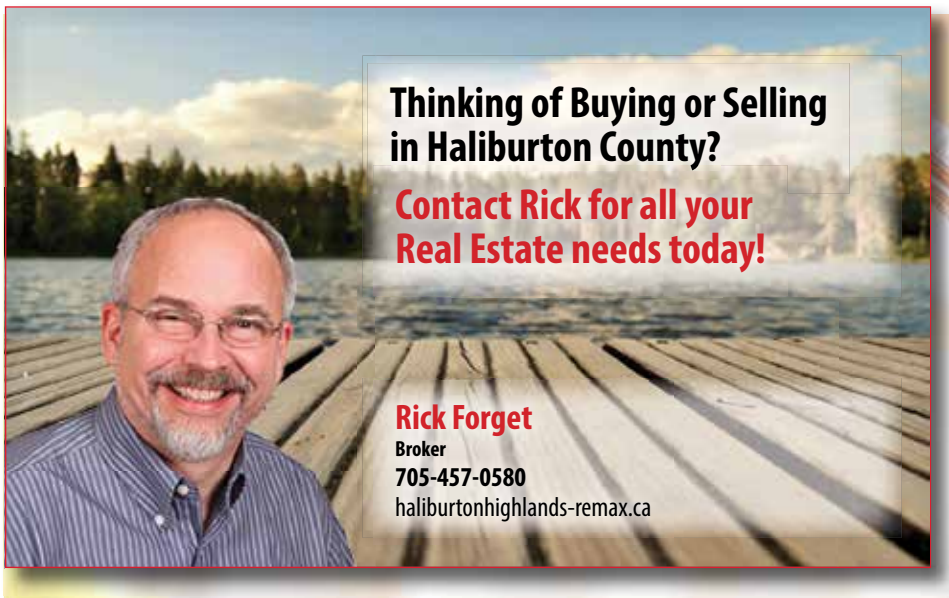

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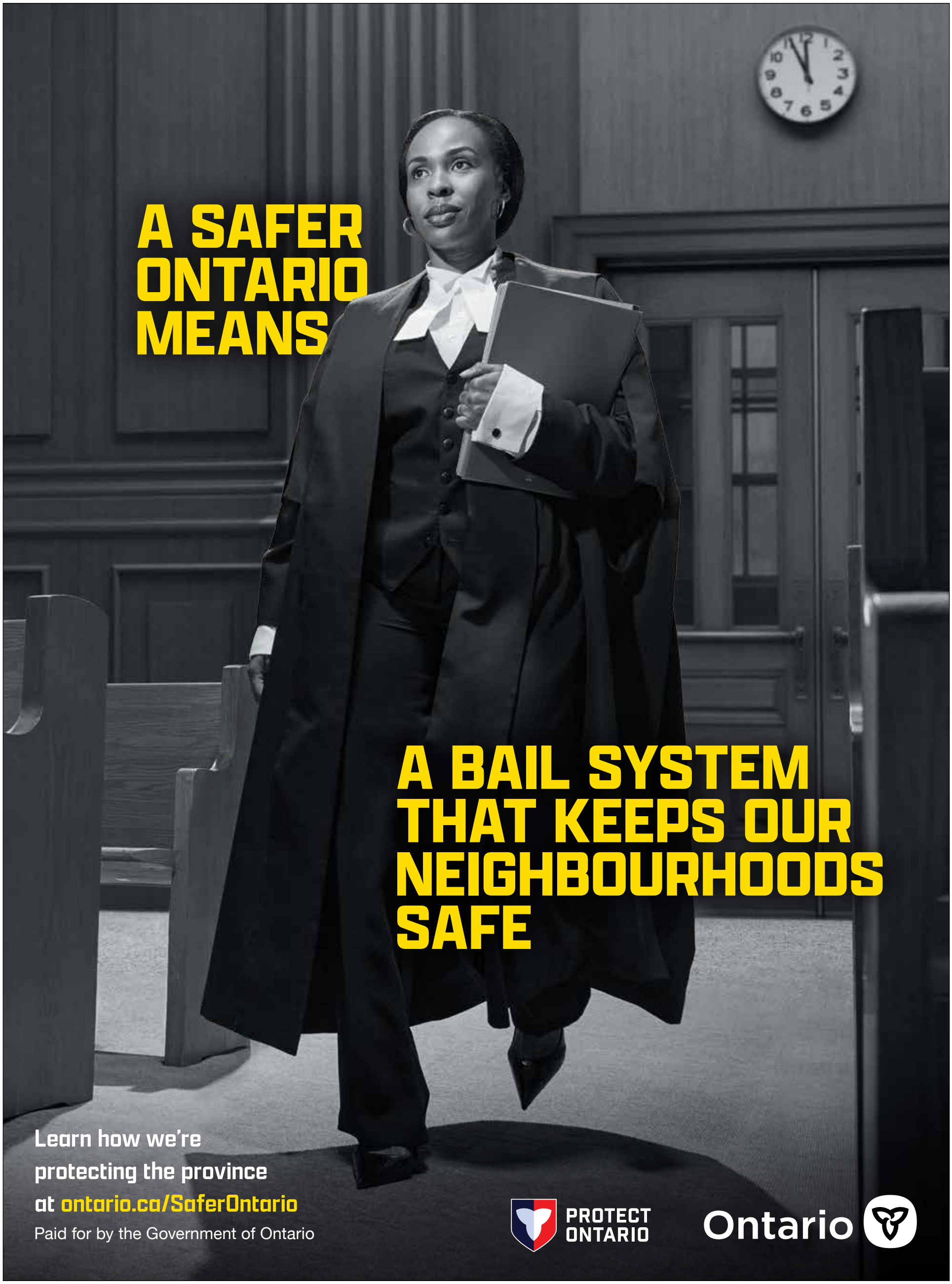
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Groundhog by Rob Barnes

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Turtles sunbathing by Tammy Nash

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New language, new journeys

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

There are over 7,000 languages spoken on our planet.

In Canada, we are taught French from an early age in school, and it is a badge of national pride to be bilingual.

For many in Ontario, English is their first language, while you can say a few phrases in French. If you have travelled throughout Canada, you have likely benefitted from being able to communicate in French.

For Susan Forrester, it was a trip to Costa Rica around 30 years ago that sparked her drive to learn Spanish.

When visiting a country, knowing the very basics of a language acts as a key for conversing. While you may not be fully bilingual, it is polite to make an attempt in the local language first, instead of directly jumping to English.

"It would have been very helpful to know other words," said Forrester.

As a high school French teacher, she knows the importance of both learning and sharing new languages. Working for the Ministry of Education, Forrester was influential in pushing for French as Second Language education across Ontario. Perhaps you may have heard of the DELF test. Forrester is one of the people who celebrated when the Trillium Lakeslands District School Board first implemented the testing for their students.

"I am not getting any younger," said Forrester. "I knew that if I wanted to get better, then I would have to work on it."

Residents of Haliburton and Minden may remember Greg Roe's Café Español offered at Castle Antiques in Haliburton and at the Minden library. The Spanish Conversation Circle thrived, with the number of participants fluctuating around 15. Forrester was a frequent attendee of the conversation circles.

"It was great fun," she said.

After some time, the number of participants dwindled, and Roe sought to pass the torch on.

A torch that Forrester happily took upon herself.

Living closer to Kinmount than downtown Minden, Forrester reached out to the Kinmount library to see if they would be interested in hosting their Spanish learning group.

Inheriting the list of attendees from the library, she was happily surprised when so many people reached out to join the group.

As a part of both the Kinmount Library's and Minden Library's programming, the Spanish language group meetings are advertised on their calendars and open to the public.

This publicity has caused a trickle effect of new participants.

While a portion of the group are weekly attendees, many people visit the Spanish language groups before going on a trip to a Spanish speaking country.

The best part of the groups? There is no pressure in committing to the group. Plus, there is no testing along the way.

Throughout running the programs, she realized that there was great potential in focusing on oral interactions that are likely to come up during people's trips.

Things like asking where your luggage is, where is the bathroom, and questions about your hotel room.

"You can get by with English," assures Forrester. "When you want your second language is when something has gone wrong."

In this modern age of teaching, Forrester started to use ChatGPT as a tool in creating custom-tailored conversations in Spanish. Realizing that conversation circle participants were participating for trips, she learned that ChatGPT offered strength in customizing conversational prompts related to geographical areas of interests and unique cultural topics.

One trip that she has jumped into is the Camino de Santiago. This trip involves pilgrimaging to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, hiking from France to the West Coast of Spain.

It just so happens that two of the current participants that frequent the Spanish Conversation Circle in Minden are making the pilgrimage, but as separate travellers.

Through the conversation circle's trip-based chronological learning structure, Forrester leads the conversation from when you arrive at the airport, to your hike, to asking about the cathedral's location. People can then tailor the conversations to meet their needs.

For hikers, she wants to make sure people can go and ask for help, learning the words for an injured ankle and where to find food and water.

While learning a language through a textbook and apps like Duolingo are great introductory tools, actually conversing with someone can be a culture shock.

For new speakers, Forrester says that the older you get, the more apprehension you feel in case you make mistakes in a new language.

With a willingness to try, it is better to make mistakes then take no chance for improvement.

"I am not an expert in Spanish," she said. "However, I am using this as the chance to get better."

Just like her preservation of French, Forrester says that repetition keeps your language ability up to date.

"When you speak, you feel it expresses who you are," said Forrester.

Beyond diving into new cultures and meeting new people, learning Spanish has huge benefits in improving cognitive abilities and staving off the harmful effects of dementia. In a 2024 study published in Healthcare titled Living with Dementia and Their Caregivers, researchers reported no agitation in early-stage dementia patients learning a new language. In fact, the social benefits of overcoming the challenge of learning the new language and the ability to make new friends saw an exceptional improvement on the patients' lives even one year after the study.

For Forrester, she hopes that her dedication to new languages reduces any chance of future neurodegenerative diseases.

For Spanish Conversation Circle participants, it is the welcoming environment that keeps people coming back regularly. While each participant has varying abilities in Spanish, everyone is open and supportive of each other.

"Everyone is wonderful," said Forrester. "Both of the libraries are tremendous supporters."

Forrester compares learning a language to watching a child grow up. Before long, you don't realize the improvements that they have made.

The Spanish Conversation Circle takes place on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Kinmount branch of the Kawartha Lakes Public Library.

In Minden, the Spanish Conversation Circle takes place on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Minden program ends on May 29. With enough interest, the group will restart in the fall.

Recently, an anonymous donator purchased a television for the program room at the Kinmount library. Forrester would like to personally thank the donor for this generosity and assure that it will be greatly appreciated by both the Spanish learning and ukulele learning groups.

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Minden Rotary Annual Northern Gala
When: Saturday, June 6
Doors open at 4:30 p.m.,
Dinner 6 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Community Centre
This event raises money that Minden Rotary turns back into the community by supporting many aspects of the community. A catered buffet dinner provided by McKeck's. Dancing to DJ Dan Sullivan after the auction closes will cap off the evening. Tickets are $70 per person. Advanced Tickets only at Lets Get Local 705-286-6868 or Linda Litwin .705-457-8511.

Friends of The Haliburton County Public Library Annual General Meeting
When: Mon., June 8, 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch of The Haliburton Public Library, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
New members are very welcome. You are invited to attend the meeting in person or by ZOOM. For more information, please contact: fol@haliburtoncounty@gmail.com

Who ART We? Why is Art Crucial to Mankind's Existence?
When: Monday, June 8, 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St, Haliburton
Xavier Massé, former Dean of the Haliburton School of Art + Design, continues his presentation of last June about the importance and effect of art on our spirit, culture and existence. (You do not need to have been at that presentation to enjoy and learn from this one). The evening begins with live music by well-known local trio Loney, Love and Love, who will treat us with original compositions and other favourites. Open to all, with no admission charge or reservations required; light refreshments are provided and hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton County. For further information, please call Kathie at 705-286-3378.

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www.haliburtonarts.on.ca

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
ECHO
The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882

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Split vote on right leads to O'Reilly victory

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It was a déjà vu all over again.

As the polls came in on Monday night, it was hard to tell if the calendar said June 2, 1997 or October 25, 1993.

In the three and a half years since the last election, it seems voters in the riding of Victoria-Haliburton had not changed their minds about which parties they preferred.

Once again, repeating the same voting patterns as 1993, they elected Liberal John O'Reilly to be their representative at the House of Commons. But it wasn't so much that a majority of voters cast their ballots in his favour; instead, it's just that his opposition on the right was neatly divided between the Progressive Conservatives and Reform Party.

And through the split in the "right" vote, the incumbent O'Reilly was able to repeat his trick of 1993, coming up between the two to emerge victorious. This time, however, the Reform's Pat Dunn was much closer on his heels.

In the results just before midnight, when not all the polls had been counted, O'Reilly was ahead of Dunn by only 800 votes. Although this wasn't the total count, and O'Reilly was consistently pulling ahead as each poll came in, his margin of victory was much closer than the 3,000-vote spread he enjoyed in 1993.

"We knew it would be close and Bill C68 was a big issue. There is a right wing vote-this is (former Conservative Premier) Leslie Frost's home town," O'Reilly said amidst the din of the crowd gathered at the Lindsay Legion on Monday night. He credited Dunn with running a good campaign and sticking to his platform.

A half an hour earlier, *The Echo* had reached Dunn at his Lindsay campaign headquarters. "I think O'Reilly's going to win it," he said. Why? "Because life's not fair", he quipped.

Asked about the second time O'Reilly was allowed to win because of the split vote on the right, Dunn said "I guess we'll have to get passed it, re-join and re-build (with the Conservatives), otherwise we can expect this to happen on a continuous basis."

Although Chester was able to pick up more votes compared to 1993, when he came third with 10,281 votes, he still was at least 2,000 votes behind Dunn. *The Echo* was unable to reach him by phone for comment on Monday night.

Just past midnight, with 217 of 240 polls counted, the vote was as follows:

Liberal John O'Reilly: 16,399
Reformer Pat Dunn: 15,530
PC Lorne Chester: 12,654
NDP Rick Denyer: 3,194
Canadian Action Charles Olito: 445

In 1993, O'Reilly got 16,486 votes, Reform's Barry Devolin got 13,144, Chester got 10,281, the New Democrat's Cathy Vainio got 1,724, and Olito got 500.

The Echo will have complete election results and commentary in next week's paper.

PineStone sold to group with hotel background

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Nearly six months after it was taken into receivership, the Highlands' largest resort has been purchased by a Toronto-based company that is firmly established in the tourist accommodation industry.

Parent company RHK Capital Inc. bought Haliburton's PineStone Resort and Conference Centre for $3.85-million through a subsidiary it has set up to operate the property called PineStone Resort Inc.

The deal, arranged by the resort's receiver, Toronto accounting firm Doane Raymond Ltd., closed Friday.

Among its business holdings, RHK Capital has four other hotels.

One of the properties reportedly is the popular Bristol Place Hotel, near Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

The head of RHK Capital's hotel division, Hans Gerhardt,

See PINESTONE page 6

PRICE: $3 (plus GST = 90 cents)

0 299666 000848

A NEW HIGHLANDS TRADTION: For the first time, Sir Sandford Fleming College held its eco-tourism graduation outside at Head Lake Park. Here, Piper Earl Cooper leads Marie Hodgson, a Haliburton representative on the board of governors, college president Brian Desbiens, program professors and graduates across the bridge from the Drag River Municipal Building. Story page 3.

School construction projects get thumbs down from local EIC

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton's school board may have to drastically alter its plans to expand the high school and build a new primary school.

The local committee set up to help merge the education systems in Haliburton, Muskoka and Victoria won't give the board the go ahead to spend more than the allocation levels previously approved by the province.

That could mean the high school expansion and upgrade will have to be scaled back by nearly half.

And the separate primary level school parents have been fighting for to replace Victoria Street School could have to be pared down to an addition at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School.

The province has agreed to give Haliburton's board $1.4-million towards a $2.8-million renovation project at the high school and $4250,000 towards replacing VSS at a total cost of $850,000.

But the board's expansion plan at the high school has grown to

See BOARD page 4

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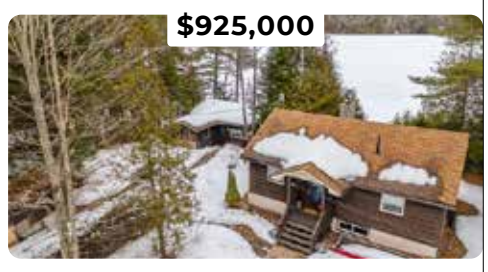
$849,000 NEW PRICE

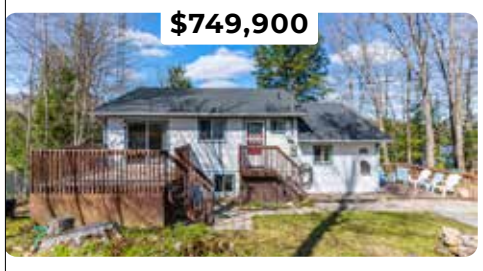
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

GOODERHAM LAKE
$925,000



BED 3+2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12954018

LONG LAKE, MINK RD
$749,900



BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

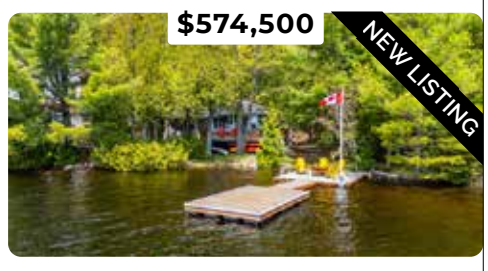
KENNISIS RIVER, CLOVERLEAF RD
$695,000 NEW LISTING

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

REYNOLDS RD, HORSESHOE LAKE
$650,000 NEW LISTING

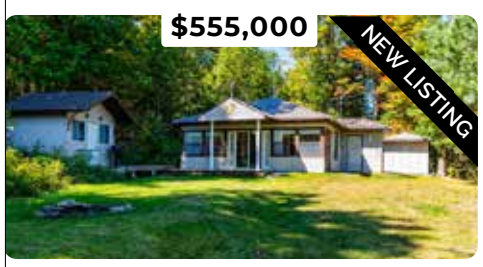
BED 3 | BATH 2+1 | MLS #X13185368

GLAMOR LAKE
$574,500 NEW LISTING



BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13176124

WEST SETTLEMENT RD
$555,000 NEW LISTING

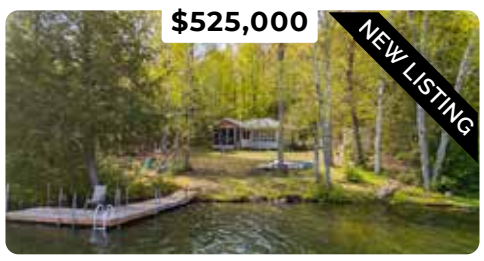


BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

WEBB CIRCLE, SILVER BEACH
$535,000

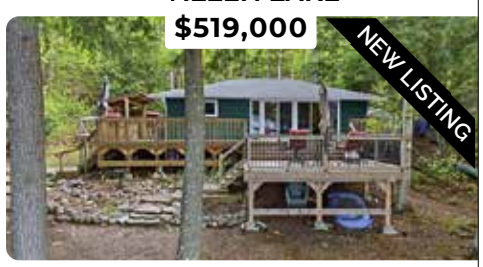
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

MONROCK LAKE
$525,000 NEW LISTING



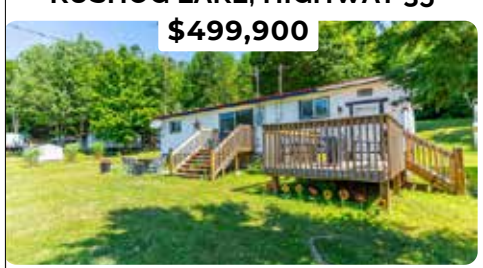
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

ALLEN LAKE
$519,000 NEW LISTING



BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13215436

KUSHOG LAKE, HIGHWAY 35
$499,900



BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

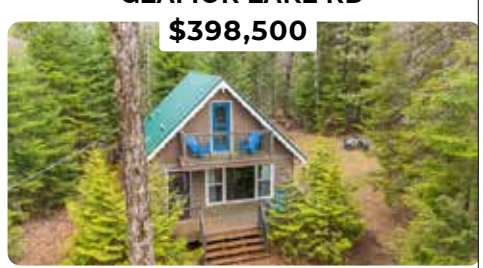
GULL RIVER, DEEP BAY RD
$449,500

BED 2+1 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13147762

COUNTY RD 503, GOODERHAM
$430,000

BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS: X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE RD
$398,500



BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

VACANT LAND

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TOM BOLTON RD
$225,000
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Minden Hills
LOCHLIN RD
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Haliburton
BOUGHNER RD
$199,900
5.31 Acres | MLS #13061996

Algonquin Highlands
BRADY LAKE RD
$195,000
0.48 Acres | MLS #13129990

Eagle Lake
STILLS RD
$145,000
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